

Ethnic riots, or those based on race, as explained by Goldstein and others, have a “more or less predictable course, flow or rhythm” although they “appear to be random, chaotic and irrational.” The psychologists describe such riots as “lethal attacks by the members of one ethnic group upon another, designed to degrade the targeted group, inflict harm or kill them, and thus reduce the ethnic heterogeneity of one’s region or state.” These riots grow just as other riots but also incorporate “selective destruction” of the target group as well as attacks on symbols of “the other side.” By this standard, the events in Wilmington fit a pattern of racial violence and group aggression similar to later riots in Atlanta and Tulsa. (116-117)